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BUENOS AIRES

2 APR 79 19: 43

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WHH file

TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM	CLASSIFICATION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES	CONFIDENTIAL

12065:
E.O. ~~XGDS2~~
TAGS:
SUBJECT: ~~XHMNXXR~~ GDS 4/2/85 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) OR-P SHUM AR (C) RABBIS VISIT TIMERMAN

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 2585

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2513

1. (C - Entire Text).

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2. Rabbi Theodore Friedman of South Orange, New Jersey (presently residing in Jerusalem) and his son Rabbi Hillel Friedman of Spring Valley, New York, visited Jacobo Timerman on the afternoon of March 30. They found him in reasonably good spirits but determined to begin a hunger campaign on April 16 if he is not released. The visitors and Rabbi Marshall Meyer, who was with them, tried to dissuade him. (Embassy Comment: They generally share Embassy view that if indeed the Argentine Government is about to free Timerman action to force this quickly might lead to a negative decision -- rather than GOA's appearing to bow under pressure.)

3. Theodore Friedman said he planned to telephone Pat

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL EXT	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:
POLCOUNS:WHHallman:jk	4/2/79	278	DCM:MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFICATION

50153-101

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

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Derian on his return to New Jersey (he left 4/1) to discuss his visit and the Timerman case further. Timerman commented during visit he would also like to see Ambassador Castro.

CASTRO RHP

OPTIONAL FORM 152a(H)
(Formerly FS-413(H)a)
January 1975
Dept of State

50152-201

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Mr. Long. Thank you.

The gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. Smith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't take but a minute. I understand that no one has asked Mr. Irving Tragen a question today. (Laughter) And I just want him to justify his salary.

Mr. Long. You might ask him how much his salary is. (Laughter)

Mr. Smith. At least it will show in the record you were here.

Mr. Tragen. Thank you.

Mr. Smith. That is the only reason I am asking it. (Laughter) He caught me as I came in.

But on page 2 of your statement, you say human rights is a major preoccupation of the OAS and American Declaration of Rights and Duties, the plan was adopted in 1948 the General American Commission of Human Rights created

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5 invested tens of thousands of complaints and violations of the rights of groups and individuals and you mention reports on Chile, Uruguay, Nicaragua. I don't see anything in there about Argentina. As you may know, I have been very interested in Timmermans, who has been incarcerated for a long period of time. I went to visit him in jail. He is out of jail. He is incarcerated in his home. It is one of the worst violations I think of human rights I have ever seen.

I have done everything humanly possible to try to get this man out of the country. U.S. News and World Report, one of the magazines last week, had a feature story on it.

What is OAS doing if anything to get that man released?

Mr. Tragen. I can't respond specifically to Mr. Timmermans' case which I happen to know fairly well, too,

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but after substantial negotiation the Government of Argentina has now extended an invitation to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to come to Argentina. The visit is scheduled for the last week in May and the first week in June. It is the first visit of its kind that this government has permitted. It is the Inter-American Human Rights Commission which has full authority in accordance with the terms of reference of the Commission to deal with any of the problems that exist in Argentina.

What was mentioned, sir, is the American Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 which was signed by all of the member countries. The ~~Commission was set up, the~~ Inter-American Human Rights Commission was set up in 1959.

Mr. Smith. CONTR I am familiar with that. I just want to know what are you going to do for Jacobo Timmermans and if you ever get down to Argentina, start investigating human rights, you will never get out of there. They

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will keep you busy for the rest of your life and everybody else's life on this Committee; thousands, thousands of people who have been incarcerated, taken out of their homes late at night, never to be seen again by their families. It is one of the worst blatant countries against human rights in the world.

Just before this bill is marked up in April or May, maybe May, I want a report on what you people did down there in Argentina to get Jacobo Timmerman out of that country. Somebody has got to make those people listen. That man has done nothing. He was found not guilty by a military tribunal. What more does he have to do? I am serious. I am sick of these clubs we've got around here, pull down the shades, have a couple of martinis and say how great they are. I want to see how great you are getting Jacobo Timmermans out of Argentina.

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8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Long. Thank you.

Mr. Tragen:

In response to your question about what the US Government has done about the situation of Mr. Timmerman, I submit the following:

* * * * *

The US Government has made repeated efforts on behalf of Mr. Timmerman. President Carter raised his case with President Videla when the latter was in Washington for the Panama Canal Treaties signing ceremony. Secretary of State Vance reviewed his case in detail when he visited Argentina in November of 1977. Since then, our Ambassador and Department of State officials have continued to press for the resolution of Mr. Timmerman's case. At present he is under house arrest, and Argentina's Supreme Court has ruled his detention under "Poder Ejecutivo Nacional" illegal. Mr. Timmerman is seeking his immediate freedom and is challenging his continued detention under the "actos institucionales".

As the Subcommittee knows, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IAHRC) is scheduled to visit Argentina at the end of May and the beginning of June 1979. In view of the Commission's mandate, and its specific interest in freedom of the press, Mr. Timmerman's problem is the kind of case in which

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the US believes the Human Rights Commission will take an active interest during its on-site visit.

We remain hopeful that the Government of Argentina will release Mr. Timmerman, and will continue our efforts to encourage that end.

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